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## OUR COUNTRY IS THE WORLD.

BY LUCY THOUMAIAN, MARSOVAN, ASIA MINOR.

*Speech at the Berne Congress.*

*My brethren:* — As the daughter, and as the wife of a minister,— as a Christian, I place myself at Christ's point of view. This is why, instead of crying: To arms! I say to you, Brethren, let us love one another.

Let us love as brothers, let us help one another to spread peace throughout the world.

Let us do it immediately, individually, while it is called to-day: the night cometh wherein no man can work.

Let us sound the word brethren more loudly than the word hatred has ever sounded! so loud, let me say, that it will be heard by the ends of the earth, and that from far away also the answer will come to us, "Yes, that is true, our country is the world."

From far away, yes, from the distant lands also, for I myself come from distant parts, from Asia. I am the voice of a people little known, forgotten, the voice of the Christian Armenians, alone, isolated in Asia, and they have sent me to tell you that they are your brethren. As for their grievances — grievances well known — they are able, they, at least, ought to be able, Armenians though they are, to settle them by arbitration, by compromise.

Our duty is not to destroy but to build up, to build up for Peace monuments worthy of it, monuments of goodwill toward all mankind.

Thus the missionary hospital for the poor sick Armenians, a hospital open to all, for which I am working, is itself a result of the principle of peace and of love: it ought to be so! We ought to succeed in exemplifying the principle.

One thing that I do not understand is that it is so difficult to explain the principle of peace to a Christian nation. That belongs naturally to the disciples of Christ.

I might comprehend that the disciples of Darwin would seek to defend the principle of war, because it seems to justify their system and make us descend from animals, and especially from that sort of animals commonly called wild animals.

Is that civilization? Well, then, let us not make a mockery of words and of human beings.

After all what is the end of war? It is to elevate one nation and to debase another. It is said, however, that the world is a whole, a single body, and we have been taught, even in our school-days, that when one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. Ah! how true that is of war! Two countries rend each other, the first presses hard upon the second, the second upon the first, and they both roll into the abyss, for the country that was declared conqueror has, itself also, tears of blood to shed, to say nothing of those that it has caused its neighbor to shed beyond the frontiers.

How can it be possible that the same men, who in times of peace hear with sadness and sympathy the recitals of accidents in neighboring countries, are able to rejoice later on over disasters in the same country, a thousand fold greater, brought on by war!

What a contradiction war is!

How it takes from us all at once heart, reason, all that makes us godlike, to say nothing of the fathers, brothers,

husbands and sons that it takes from us, or of our happiness that it ruins.

Let us work then as nations and as individuals, let us put such ardor into the service of peace as no one has ever put into the service of war. "Peace on earth, good will to men," this is the Divine voice, what need have we for further authority? And do we not hear also in our own hearts the voice of kindred? Each heart-beat, is it then for ourselves and our family alone? I tell you that being the offspring of God our hearts are for the whole world; every heart that does not conform to this is irregular, is a sick heart, which has need of medicine — and to come to the Peace Congress.

If then I have come from Asia, I, a feeble woman, to bring into closer relation with you, brethren of the Occident, by peaceable deeds of good will, a forgotten people, your brethren, let us aid one another in the universal task of binding the world together.

We who are here unite to use our forces, whatever they may be, for the life of each of our brothers, whoever they may be, instead of using them for the ruin of any part of humanity.

Let us prove the existence of peace by deeds of peace.

This is a resolution that we should make. Let us all pull at the car that bears us always nearer to heaven, always higher and higher.

May peace be with you all! Amen.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WISBECH (ENGLAND) LOCAL PEACE ASSOCIATION.

This Association, one of the most active and useful of the local peace associations of England, held its annual meeting on Thursday evening, the 19th of October. It was presided over by Mr. Alex. Peckover, F. R. G. S. Several prominent citizens were on the platform. The meeting was opened by singing and prayer, after which the chairman introduced Mr. Hodgson Pratt, well known in all peace circles. The following condensed report of his speech is from the *Wisbech Advertiser*:

He said he thought it a very great honor to be invited there that evening, to speak in a club which he had always held up to the admiration of workingmen's clubs all over England. As president of the Workingmen's Club and Institute movement, he would say that although it had not perhaps accomplished all that had been expected, it had done a vast deal of good. He supposed that more than a hundred times he had said at public meetings held at workingmen's clubs, or for the establishment of workingmen's clubs, that if they wanted to see how to do it, they must go to Wisbech (applause). He was asked to say a few words upon the work which they had been doing at Wisbech for the cause of human concord and human unity, and he felt that it was a very great privilege to come where so much had been done, especially by the lady who sat at his left hand—Miss Peckover (applause). What she has done shows how much a woman can do for that which above all others is a woman's cause — the cause of humanity, and justice and right (applause). He was addressing an audience that evening which was already converted. The facts and arguments in favor of their cause were quite